



Growing in His Likeness

How Do We Begin Following Jesus?

Session 2 - September 17, 2023

THE BIG IDEA

Following Jesus begins with paying attention to desire: **God's desire for us** as his beloved children, and **our desire for God**.

SUMMARY

How do Christians **grow into the likeness of Jesus**? Where to begin? Or where to begin again?

1. We cannot make ourselves become like Jesus by just **trying harder**.
2. We start by **paying attention to our desire** to become like Jesus.
3. Our desire is in turn a **response** to God's desire for us, the **God who loves us and delights in us, as beloved sons and daughters**.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT TOGETHER

When you think about God, what images come to mind? You might recall certain Bible stories that loom large in your imagination, impressions you had of God growing up, poetic imagery in Scripture, or even a particular work of religious art.

SOMETHING TO READ TOGETHER

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:9-11)

Read it again. Why do you think the Bible includes this story? What does this story tell you about God: Father, Son, and Spirit?

SOMETHING TO TRY AT HOME

Letters from God (see description on reverse)

SOMETHING TO TRY AT HOME

Letters from God

In your daily prayer time, try **reading the following passages as if they are directed at you**, the beloved son or daughter of God.

Monday:

The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing. (Zephaniah 3:17)

Tuesday:

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth ... (Colossians 1:3-6)

Wednesday:

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:3-6)

Thursday:

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 5:14-19)

Friday:

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me!...

¹³For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." (Psalm 139:1, 13-14)

Saturday:

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. (1 John 3:19-24)



**ACCESS STUDY VIDEOS
& HANDOUTS ONLINE**